

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the pending Office Action mailed July 30, 2007, claims 1, 3-16, and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Publication No. 2005/0065961 to Aguren in view of US Publication No. 2005/0044162 to Liang. Claims 2 and 17 were previously canceled. In this amendment, the independent claims (1, 10, 13, 16) have been amended and new claims (21-24) have been added. Further examination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

In the Office Action, it was conceded that Aguren does not disclose storing data management rule information for a data file in a header of the data file (see page 3 of the Office Action). Liang was cited for showing data management rule information in the header of a data file (citing to paragraph [0037] and Figure 5 of Liang). Liang, however, does not relate to storing data management rule information for a data file in the header.

Liang relates to a storage object that defines a logical disk drive (paragraph [0008] at lines 7-10 and paragraph [0031] at lines 9-10). Data from a client is stored in a data storage area of the storage object, and the storage object, representing the logical disk drive and the data area, is placed in a container file (§ [0032] at lines 1-5). The container file includes a header containing metadata for attributes of the storage object (§ [0036] at lines 1-4). That is, the storage object container file header includes information relating to the logical disk drive, not a particular data file within the logical disk drive. In this way, Liang uses a file to store logical disk drive attributes and permit file-level protocols to be used for access to network storage (see ¶ [0005] at lines 12-16). See also ¶ [0009] at lines 7-14 (container file includes metadata that defines a virtual SCSI direct access storage device).

The description in Liang makes it clear that the container file and its header information are related to a logical disk drive, not a data file. Liang at paragraph [0038], for example, describes the header (i.e., storage object attributes) as including storage capacity in bytes, amount of storage presently used, and amount of free space in the storage object, as well as RAID level of the drive. It is asserted that such parameters relate to the disk drive itself, and

clearly do not relate to "retention and relocation of the data file", as recited in the independent claims.

All of the pending independent claims (comprising claims 1, 10, 13, 16) have been amended and recite that data management rule information for a particular data file includes information for retention and relocation of the data file and includes user-set data management rules for the data file. In contrast, Liang describes header information in a container file that defines attributes of a logical disk drive device. It should be apparent that defining a SCSI disk drive, such as described in Liang, involves system-set information, such as SCSI command blocks and system information, to ensure proper specification of system resources, rather than user-set data management rules for a data file, as recited in the independent claims.

The amendments to the independent claims are supported by the specification. For example, at paragraphs [0052] and [0053] of the specification as filed, it is noted that the header of a data file includes data management rule information that includes information for retention and relocation of the data file and user-set data management rules for the data file.

New dependent claims have been added (claims 21-24), dependent from each of the independent claims. The new claims recite that the data management rule information includes default rules for an application associated with the data file. See, for example, the specification as filed at paragraph [0045].

Thus, Liang describes header information that relates to a logical disk drive device, not a data file itself. Therefore, it is submitted that the combination of Aguren and Liang cannot provide the invention as claimed. In accordance with M.P.E.P. § 2143, the combination does not render the independent claims obvious. It is submitted that claims 1, 10, 13, and 16 are not rendered obvious by the asserted combination. For at least the reasons above, it is submitted that the dependent claims (3-9, 11-15, 18-24) also are not rendered obvious by the combination of Aguren and Liang.

The other references of record have been reviewed and it is asserted that they do not make up for the deficiencies noted above. Therefore, it is asserted that claims 1, 3-16, and 18-20 are patentable over the references.

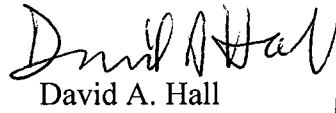
Appl. No.: 10/804,618
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Reply to Office Action dated July 30, 2007

PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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